

Amendment to the Claims:

The present amendment replies to a Non-Final Office Action mailed August 23, 2006. Claims 34-36, 38, and 42 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-9 were previously canceled and claims 10-33 were previously withdrawn. In the Non-Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 34-36, 38, and 42 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each ground of rejection as subsequently recited herein and requests reconsideration of the present application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 9 wherein at least one of the layers is biodegradable.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 9 wherein the first layer contains one therapeutic agent and the second layer contains a different therapeutic agent.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 1 wherein the band further comprises a plurality of interwoven filaments.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 12 wherein individual filaments of the plurality of interwoven filaments contain different therapeutic agents.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 12 wherein individual filaments of the plurality of interwoven filaments are made of different polymers.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A stent assembly for implantation in a body lumen comprising:

a stent; and

at least one helical wrap helically wrapped around the stent, the width of the helical wrap being substantially less than the diameter of the stent;

wherein the helical wrap further comprises a polymer containing a therapeutic agent.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical agents, radioactive agents, bioactive agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of thrombin inhibitors, antithrombogenic agents, thrombolytic agents, fibrinolytic agents, vasospasm inhibitors, calcium channel blockers, vasodilators, antihypertensive agents, antimicrobial agents, antibiotics, inhibitors of surface glycoprotein receptors, antiplatelet agents, antimitotics, microtubule inhibitors, anti secretory agents, actin inhibitors, remodeling inhibitors, antisense nucleotides, anti metabolites, antiproliferatives, anticancer chemotherapeutic agents, anti-inflammatory steroid or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, immunosuppressive agents, growth hormone antagonists, growth factors, dopamine agonists, radiotherapeutic agents, peptides, proteins, enzymes, extracellular matrix components, inhibitors, free radical scavengers, chelators, antioxidants, anti polymerases, antiviral agents, photodynamic therapy agents, gene therapy agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a single polymer, a copolymer blend, a polymer mixture, a copolymer mixture, and a polymer-copolymer mixture.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of a biostable polymer, a bioabsorbable polymer, and a biomolecular polymer.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(L-lactic acid), polycaprolactone, poly(lactide-co-glycolide), poly(hydroxybutyrate), poly(hydroxybutyrate-co-valerate), polydioxanone, polyorthoester, polyanhydride, poly(glycolic acid), poly(D,L-lactic acid), poly(glycolic acid-co-trimethylene carbonate), polyphosphoester, polyphosphoester urethane, poly(amino acids),

cyanoacrylates, poly(trimethylene carbonate), poly(iminocarbonate), copoly(ether-esters), PEO/PLA, polyalkylene oxalates, polyphosphazenes, fibrin, fibrinogen, cellulose, starch, collagen and hyaluronic acid, polyurethanes, silicones, polyesters, polyolefins, polyisobutylene, ethylene-alphaolefin copolymers, acrylic polymers, acrylic copolymers, vinyl halide polymers, vinyl halide copolymers, polyvinyl chloride, polyvinyl ethers, polyvinyl methyl ether, polyvinylidene halides, polyvinylidene fluoride, polyvinylidene chloride, polyacrylonitrile, polyvinyl ketones, polyvinyl aromatics, polystyrene, polyvinyl esters, polyvinyl acetate, copolymers of vinyl monomers, copolymers of vinyl monomers with olefins, ethylene-methyl methacrylate copolymers, acrylonitrile-styrene copolymers, ABS resins, ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers, polyamides, nylon 66, polycaprolactam, alkyd resins, polycarbonates, polyoxymethylenes, polyimides, polyethers, epoxy resins, polyurethanes, rayon, rayon-triacetate, cellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose butyrate, cellulose acetate butyrate, cellophane, cellulose nitrate, cellulose propionate, cellulose ethers, carboxymethyl cellulose, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 further comprising a plurality of helical wraps.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the helical wrap further comprises a first layer and a second layer, the first layer located around the stent, and the second layer attached around the first layer.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 22 wherein at least one of the layers is biodegradable.

Claim 24 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 22 wherein the first layer contains one therapeutic agent and the second layer contains a different therapeutic agent.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 15 wherein the helical wrap further comprises a plurality of interwoven filaments.

Claim 26 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 25 wherein individual filaments of the plurality of interwoven filaments contain different therapeutic agents.

Claim 27 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 25 wherein individual filaments of the plurality of interwoven filaments are made of different polymers.

Claim 28 (withdrawn): A stent assembly for implantation in a body lumen comprising:

means for supporting walls of the body lumen; and

means for eluting a therapeutic agent, the eluting means removably wrapped around the supporting means, the width of the eluting means being substantially less than the diameter of the supporting means.

Claim 29 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 28 wherein the eluting means is at least one band circumferentially wrapped around the supporting means.

Claim 30 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 28 wherein the eluting means is a helical wrap helically wrapped around the supporting means.

Claim 31 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 28 wherein the therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutical agents, radioactive agents, bioactive agents, and combinations thereof.

Claim 32 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 28 wherein the eluting means comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a single polymer, a copolymer blend, a polymer mixture, a copolymer mixture, and a polymer-copolymer mixture.

Claim 33 (withdrawn): The stent assembly of claim 28 wherein the eluting means comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of a biostable polymer, a bioabsorbable polymer, and a biomolecular polymer.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A stent assembly for implantation in a body lumen comprising:

a stent; and

a plurality of bands circumferentially wrapped around the stent, the plurality of bands including at least a first band and a second band, the width of each of the bands being substantially less than the diameter of the stent;

wherein the bands further comprise a polymer containing a therapeutic agent, the bands elastically gripping the stent; and

wherein individual bands of the plurality of bands contain different therapeutic agents, the first band containing a first therapeutic agent and the second band containing a second therapeutic agent, the first therapeutic agent being different than the second therapeutic agent.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A stent assembly for implantation in a body lumen comprising:

a stent; and

a plurality of bands circumferentially wrapped around the stent, the plurality of bands including at least a first band and a second band, the width of each of the bands being substantially less than the diameter of the stent;

wherein the bands further comprise a polymer containing a therapeutic agent, the bands elastically gripping the stent; and

wherein individual bands of the plurality of bands are made of different polymers, the first band being made of a first polymer and the second band being made of a second polymer, the first polymer being different than the second polymer.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A stent assembly for implantation in a body lumen comprising:

a stent; and

at least one band circumferentially wrapped around the stent, the width of the band being substantially less than the diameter of the stent;

wherein the band further comprises a polymer containing a therapeutic agent, the band elastically gripping the stent, the polymer comprising a first polymer and a second polymer, the first polymer being different than the second polymer; and

wherein the band further comprises a first layer and a second layer, the first layer located circumferentially around the stent, and the second layer attached circumferentially around the first layer, the first layer being made of the first polymer and the second layer being made of the second polymer.

Claim 37 (cancelled):

Claim 38 (previously presented): The stent assembly of claim 34 wherein the stent has a proximal portion and a distal portion, the first band being disposed on the proximal portion and the second band being disposed on the distal portion.

Claim 39-41 (cancelled):

Claim 42 (previously presented): A stent assembly for implantation in a body lumen comprising:

a stent; and

at least one band circumferentially wrapped around the stent, the width of the band being substantially less than the diameter of the stent;

wherein the band further comprises a polymer containing a therapeutic agent, the band elastically gripping the stent, the therapeutic agent comprising a first therapeutic agent and a second therapeutic agent, the first therapeutic agent being different than the second therapeutic agent; and

wherein the band further comprises a first layer and a second layer, the first layer located circumferentially around the stent, and the second layer attached circumferentially around the first layer, the first layer containing the first therapeutic agent and the second layer containing the second therapeutic agent.